

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 20 with the following new paragraph:

[0020] A second force applying mechanism 58 is operatively connected to the impacting post 56 and is operable to apply force to the impacting post 56 to move the impacting post 56 with respect to the adjustable post 16 along the generally vertical cutting axis 57. Although several of the moving components of the die assembly 10 (such as the adjustable post 16 and the impacting post 56) are illustrated and described using horizontal and vertical movement, this is not intended to limit the orientation of the die assembly or any of the components of the die assembly 10 or to restrict the relative angles of movement of the moving components. For example, although a generally vertical cutting axis 57 is illustrated, the cutting axis can be at any appropriate orientation or ~~angle~~ angle with respect to the adjustable post 16 so long as the impacting post 56 moves sufficiently relative to the adjustable post 16 to cut the sheet 100 as desired. Furthermore, the impacting post 56 could be angularly mounted in the die assembly so that the impacting post 56 provides a shearing action to sever a strip of metal material. The second force applying mechanism 58 may be supported by the base 12 and be positioned above the base 12 as seen in FIGS. 1 and 2. Although any appropriate force applying mechanism may be used, the illustrative embodiment of the second force applying mechanism 58 includes a plurality of pressure cylinders 62, 64, 66, 68 and an upper support structure 70. Also, though the cutting path of impacting post 56 is illustrated as being along an axis, that is, cutting axis 57, the cutting path can be any movement relative to the adjusting post that cuts the desired material. For example, the cutting path of impacting post can cut sheet 100 along a curved line that is fixed with respect to the movement of the adjustable post 16.

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